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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR
SUBJECT Harbor Observations - Murmansk

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3. Port Facilities

[redacted] loading facilities at the Fertilizer Pier were very limited. [redacted] noted no automatic conveying equipment. [redacted]

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[redacted] saw no other cranes in the vicinity. The fertilizer came into Murmansk by train, where it was unloaded by hand labor. Twenty workers were employed in eight-hour shifts around the clock. The only women workers observed were those employed in the offices of the warehouse for clerical purposes. The workers appeared to be well fed and in good health and were characterized [redacted] as "very efficient." The staple diet of workers in this area was cabbage soup and potatoes.

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No fueling facilities were available at Murmansk, [redacted] it was possible to have minor ship repairs made but [redacted] observed no facilities for major repair work. [redacted] saw no ship yard or dry docks.

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4. Ships Observed

A [redacted] merchant ship [redacted] loading fertilizer [redacted] was also loading fertilizer. It appeared to be an old [redacted] merchant ship of approximately six thousand tons. A Soviet merchant ship, not identified [redacted]

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[redacted] in the upper reaches of the Kola Inlet, [redacted] observed a number of Soviet naval vessels apparently on maneuvers, proceeding out to sea. Because of the hazy condition of the weather, the poor visibility, and the distance, [redacted] was unable to [redacted] identify these ships. [redacted] estimated there were approximately 40 ships altogether. [redacted] observed no submarines. There appeared to be from 10 to 20 old German destroyers in the group, similar to those taken over by the Soviets after World War II. [redacted] estimated that they were of approximately 1,800 tons each. [redacted] because of the distance [redacted] was unable to observe any guns or radar antennae. Included in the group were several old-type German battleships.

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5. General Observations

[redacted] No merchandise was for sale in the stores, and the city was in a very dilapidated, run-down condition. [redacted] there apparently was nothing to buy anyway except vodka. [redacted]

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[redacted] the most unusual occurrence noted was the number of drunken Soviet workmen wandering around [redacted] it was quite unusual for public drunkenness to reach such an extent in the USSR.

The only new construction noted in Murmansk was the number of new apartment houses and small homes built for the workers. These buildings were constructed of timber and stone. The quality of the construction was very poor and the house units were very small, consisting of only one or two rooms each. The window glass was of poor quality as well as workmanship. In many cases the doors and windows did not fit.

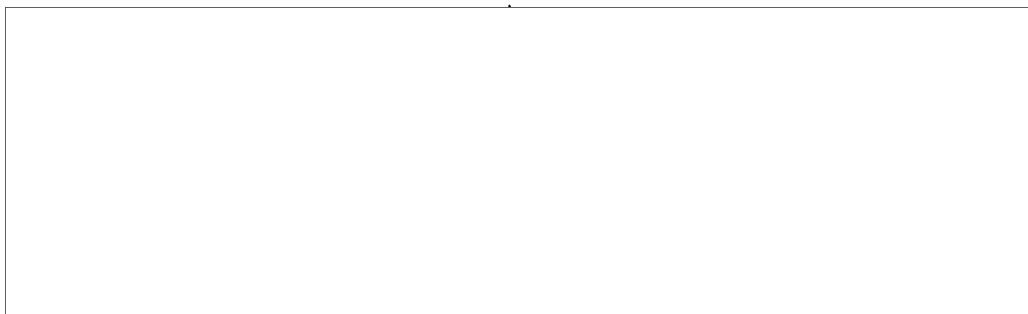
[redacted] characterized the weather as being good and the temperature about 14-16 Centigrade.

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[redacted] observed no airfields or military bases in the vicinity of Murmansk. Only a few vehicles were noted on the streets. [redacted] Murmansk was used only as an anchorage for Soviet naval ships, since no logistic support was available in the area.

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